

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for approving item requests, comprising:
 - logging an approver into an application;
 - displaying a view containing a set of item requests to the approver;
 - receiving an approval determination for at least one of the set of item requests from the approver; and
 - updating an approver list corresponding to the at least one of the set of item requests based on the approval determination.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving comments from the approver based on the approval determination.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying an informational message to the approver, prior to receiving the approval determination.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - communicating an approval message to the approver prior to the logging step, wherein the approval message informs the approver of the at least one item request requiring approval; and
 - forwarding the approval message to a subsequent approver in the approver list after the updating step.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising verifying an authorization of the approver to make the approval determination.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating a result message to a requestor based on the approval determination.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising updating an approval status corresponding to the at least one item request, wherein the approval status is selected from the group consisting of approved, rejected and pending.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the approval determination is selected from the group consisting of approved and rejected.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the approver list identifies approvers that have approved the at least one item request, and approvers that have yet to approve the at least one item request.

10. A system for approving item requests, comprising:

a request display system for displaying a view containing a set of item requests to an approver within an application;

an approval determination system for receiving an approval determination for at least one of the set of item requests from the approver; and

an update system for updating an approver list corresponding to the at least one of the set of item requests based on the approval determination.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the set of item requests comprises a plurality of item requests.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the set of item requests exist within a shopping cart, and wherein the approval determination from the approver corresponds to the shopping cart as a whole.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the approval determination system further receives comments from the approver based on the approval determination.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the request display system further displays an informational message to the approver.

15. The system of claim 10, further comprising a notification system for communicating an approval message to the approver, wherein the approval message informs the approver of the set of item requests requiring approval, and wherein the notification system further forwards the approval message to a subsequent approver in the approver list after the approver list is updated.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the notification system further communicates a result message to a requestor based on the approval determination.

17. The system of claim 10, further comprising a validation system for logging the approver into the application, and for verifying an authorization of the approver to make the approval determination.

18. The system of claim 10, wherein the update system further updates an approval status corresponding to the at least one item request, and wherein the approval status is selected from the group consisting of approved, rejected and pending.

19. The system of claim 10, wherein the approval determination is selected from the group consisting of approved and rejected.

20. The system of claim 10, wherein the approver list identifies approvers that have approved the at least one item request, and approvers that have yet to approve the at least one item request.

21. A program product stored on a recordable medium for approving item requests, which when executed, comprises:

program code for displaying a view containing a set of item requests to an approver within an application;

program code for receiving an approval determination for at least one of the set of item requests from the approver; and

program code for updating an approver list corresponding to the at least one of the set of item requests based on the approval determination.

22. The program product of claim 21, wherein the set of item requests comprises a plurality of item requests.

23. The program product of claim 21, wherein the set of item requests exist within a shopping cart, and wherein the approval determination from the approver corresponds to the shopping cart as a whole.

24. The program product of claim 21, wherein the program code for receiving the approval determination further receives comments from the approver based on the approval determination.

25. The program product of claim 21, wherein the program code for displaying further displays an informational message to the approver.

26. The program product of claim 21, further comprising program code for communicating an approval message to the approver, wherein the approval message informs the approver of the set of item requests requiring approval, and wherein the approval message is forwarded to a subsequent approver in the approver list after the approver list is updated.

27. The program product of claim 26, wherein the program code for communicating further communicates a result message to a requestor based on the approval determination.

28. The program product of claim 21, further comprising program code for logging the approver into the application, and for verifying an authorization of the approver to make the approval determination.

29. The program product of claim 21, wherein program code for updating further updates an approval status corresponding to the at least one item request, and wherein the approval status is selected from the group consisting of approved, rejected and pending.

30. The program product of claim 21, wherein the approval determination is selected from the group consisting of approved rejected.

31. The program product of claim 21, wherein the approver list identifies approvers that have approved the at least one item request, and approvers that have yet to approve the at least one item request.